

ARTICLES
OF
Visitation and Inquiry
CONCERNING
Matters Ecclesiastical.

Exhibited to the
Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of e-
very *Parish*, within the *Arch-Deaconry* of
W E L L S, in the Diocess of *Bath and Wells*.

*The Tenour of the Oath of the Church-
wardens and Side-men.*

YOU shall swear, That you and every of you
shall faithfully Execute your several Offices
of *Church-wardens* and *Side-men* according to Law
to the best of your Skill and Knowledge. *So Help
you God, and the Contents of his Holy Gospel.*

Printed in the Year 1707.

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W. H. L. S. B. of Bath and Wells



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ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Inquiry

Within the

Arch-Deaconry of *WELLS*,

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. **I**S your Parish-Church or Chappel, in good and sufficient Repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats, Bells, Bell-cage and all other necessities? Can. 8^e

2 Is there a decent Font of Stone with a Cover? 28
Doth the Minister baptize publickly only in the Font? Is there a decent *Communion-Table* to your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another covering of white Linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lord's Supper? And have you a fair *Chalice*, or *Communion-Cup*, with a Cover, and One or more Flaggons? Have they been profaned by common use? Or detain'd from their sacred Uses by any Persons, and by whom? And have

have you a decent Bason, to receive the Alms and Oblations given at the same?

20
82
83
80
Stat. 99 3 Have you a convenient Seat, or Pew, wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth, or Cushion, a large Bible of the last Translation, and two Books of Common-Prayer, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk, lately Published, Anno 1662. the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority, and a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are Prohibited, and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a decent Surplice, and duly wash'd at the charge of the *Parish*?

58
87
70
52 4 Have you a Register-Book in *Parchment*, of *Christnings*, *Burials*, and *Marriages*? And is the same kept in all points according to the Ancient Use?

5 Have you a Book for the *Church-warden's* Accounts? As also a Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture. And *Lastly*, have you a Bier, and a black Herse-cloth, for the *Burial* of the Dead?

T I T. II.

Concerning the *Church-yard*, the *Houses*, *Glebes* and *Tithes* belonging to the *Church*.

1. **I**S your *Church-yard*, sufficiently fenced and decently kept? Hath any Person encroached upon the same, or made any Door in it? And how long since? Have any Trees growing in the *Church-yard* been cut down, And by whom? And when?

2 Is the House of your *Parson*, *Vicar* or *Curate* and the Out-houses in good Repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence? have there been any *Encroachments* made upon the same? Or any of the *Ancient Marks* or *Boundaries*, removed or changed? And by whom? 3 Have

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4

3 Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits, either within or without your Parish, as belongs thereunto, Can. 87

4. Have any of the Ancient Glebe-Lands, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away or Alienated, by Lease, Sale, or Exchange, without Licence from the Ordinary, and free consent of the Incumbent?

T I T. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1 Is your Minister resident among you? If not, hath he a sufficient Curate for your Parish, in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church, or does he duly officiate himself? Can. 47.
48

2 Doth your Minister at the Reading of Divine Service, or Administring the Sacraments wear a Surplice, Doth he constantly (not having reasonable Impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church, or Chappell every Sunday, and read Prayers in the Afternoon? 58
45, 46.
47

3 Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth in your Parish in the Church-Catechism, and prepare them to be confirmed by the Bishop. Can. 89
Rubr.
before Con
firmat.

4 Doth he neglect or delay to visit the sick, or to baptize any Infant that is in danger of Death, doth he publickly baptise any without God-fathers and God mothers, or admit either of the Parents to be God-fathers or God-mothers to their own Children? 67
69

Hath your Minister Married any Persons without publishing the Banns, on three Sundays or Holy-days, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do? Or hath

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hath he married any in private houses, or not between the Hours of Eight and Twelve in the Morning.

75

6 Is your *Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer*, a Man of sober Life and Conversation? Or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

Can. 109

1. **I**s there any Person in your *Parish*, that lyeth under a common Fame or Suspicion of *Adultery, Fornication, or Incest*? Are there any *Blasphemers* of God's Name, and who are they?

99

*Express in a Table
set forth by Authority,
an. Dom. 1563*

2 Are there any Living in your *Parish* who have been *unlawfully married* contrary to the Laws of God, the *Church*, and this *Realm*, and who are they?

Rubr.

Can. 85

3 Are there any that refuse to contribute to the *Rates*, made for the *Repair* of your *Church* or *Chappel*, or any thing thereunto belonging, and who are they?

Rub. 6.

4. Are there any *Wills* or *Testaments* of Persons dead in your *Parish*, that are yet unproved? Did any dying in your *Parish* or elsewhere leave any *Legacy* to your *Church* or *Chappel*, or to the use of the *Poor*, or any other pious and charitable purposes, what were those *Legacies*, and how have they been bestowed?

5 Is there any publick and scandalous *Strife* and contention among any of your *Parish*, for their *Pews* or *Seats* in your *Church*, Hath any new *Pew* been erected in your *Chancel*, or in the *Body* of your *Church* or *Chappel*, without Leave from the *Ordinary*,

T I T. V.

Concerning the Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

Can. 91

HAve you belonging to your *Church* or *Chappel*, a *Parish-Clerk*? Is he of honest Life and

Con-

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6

Conversation, and sufficient and able to perform his Duty in Reading, writing and Singing, Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church?

2 Doth he diligently do his Duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in *Tolling* and *Ringing* the Bells before divine Service, and when any Person is passing out of this Life, doth he upon notice toll a Bell, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to Recommend the dying Person to the Grace and Favour of God?

3 Have you a Sexton in your Parish?

T I T. VI.

Concerning School-Masters and Schools.

1. **D**Oth any Man keep a private School in your Parish, who is not Licensed thereunto by your Ordinary? Doth he Teach his Scholars the Church-Catechism? Car. 77.
79

T I T. VII.

Concerning Church - Wardens and Side - Men.

ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly Chosen by the joynt Consent of your Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? Car. 89.

2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish? And delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens, the Monies remaining in their hands, together with the *Communion-Plate*, and all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3 You are farther to understand, that according to your Office, you are to provide against every Rubr. at
the Com-
munion.
Com-

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Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the Number of Communicants.

4. You, the Church-wardens and Side-men, are to maintain the Church in sufficient Repair, which is to be done by a Tax made by the Church-wardens and Parish-Overseers, and publick notice given of the time and place where they meet ; and thole that refuse, are to be Sued in the Ecclesiastical Court only.

5 You are also to Exhibit a Bill of Presentments to the Court, of the Offenders in your Parish, and therein to take the Assistance of your Ministers.

For know you assuredly, That as the true Discharging of your Office, is the chief means whereby Publick Disorders, Sins, and Offences, in your Parish, may be Reformed and Punished : So if you wilfully refuse to present such Crimes and Faults, That in such Cases, the Arch-Deacon aforesaid and his Officers, may proceed against you in their Ecclesiastical Courts, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

F I N I S.



